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Letter dated 12 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you a statement on the situation in Kisangani as at 11 June 2000, following Rwanda's cynical and callous decision to use innocent civilians as human shields (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter, together with its annex, issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Matia Mulumba **Semakula Kiwanuka**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 12 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

1. Following six days of senseless carnage and mayhem by the Rwanda Patriotic Army (RPA) in Kisangani it became abundantly clear that:

(a) RPA was not interested in a ceasefire as it had frustrated the bilateral arrangement for simultaneous withdrawal on Monday 5 June 2000, the unilateral ceasefire and withdrawal proposed by Uganda on Thursday 8 June 2000 and the multilateral agreement reached by the Presidents of Uganda and Rwanda with the assistance of the United Nations and the Government of the United States of America on the afternoon of 8 June 2000;

(b) The subsequent murder of four officers of the Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF) in the process of implementing the said multilateral ceasefire arrangement lies squarely at the hands of the Government of Rwanda;

(c) RPA in Kisangani is insensitive to the massive deaths of civilians and destruction of property as it is continuously using Congolese people as human shields in flagrant disregard of all international conventions;

(d) RPA is bent on destroying the Democratic Republic of the Congo and damaging Uganda's impeccable international standing.

2. The schemes of the Governments of Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to undermine and frustrate the implementation of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement must be exposed and condemned.

3. On 10 June 2000, the UPDF command reviewed the situation and took a decision to withdraw from positions it held on 5 June 2000 back to Kapalata in order to:

(a) Dispel the Rwandese rumour, circulated worldwide, that, in spite of the understanding between President Museveni and President Chiluba, UPDF was planning an all out offensive against RPA in Kisangani in order to capture the town;

(b) Minimize the loss of civilian lives and uncalled for destruction of property in the city;

(c) Concentrate on the higher national regional and international goals enshrined in the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement.

4. The Government of Uganda reiterates its earlier concern that, once again, the international community has allowed Rwanda to go unpunished, in spite of the United Nations presence in Kisangani, and further warns that this will create conditions for the escalation of instability in the region.

5. The Government of Uganda regrets the loss of innocent lives and destruction of property in Kisangani at the hands of RPA.

6. The Government of Uganda assures the people of Uganda, of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the international community that it remains firmly committed to the demilitarization of Kisangani and the upholding of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement.